A SYNOPSIS OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH

On

Mythical Archetypes and Modernity in The Select Novels of Devdutt Pattanaik

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Title:

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Introduction

The blend of myths and contemporary society presents an opportunity to delve into the lasting significance of age-old symbols and themes, in today's world. Mythical archetypes have long been integral to storytelling reflecting shared experiences and psychological truths. In our era, these archetypes continue to influence literature, media and cultural conversations providing timeless insights into the experience. Exploring how mythical archetypes intersect with life allows us to deepen our understanding of their enduring impact, on our consciousness, cultural stories and the evolving aspects of human identity in a constantly changing environment. The archetypal method is the interpretation of a book within the framework of the cultural patterns it entails, whether these patterns are based on race, nation, social group, or myth and ritual. In 1919, Carl Gustav Jung, the pioneer of "archetypal psychology," used the term "archetypes" to describe what he called "primordial image" in his article "Instinct and the Unconscious." The concept of a fundamental nature that crosses the realm of observation and gives it its forms and meaning was initially explored by the philosopher Plato.

Drawing on the wisdom of scholars, like Northrop Frye and Carl G. Jung we embark on a quest to understand the patterns and symbolic elements found within Indian mythology. Our exploration will delve into Devdutt Pattanaik's perspective presented in his writings examining how he interpreted folktales and the implications this holds for our understanding of culture, identity, and spirituality, in both traditional narratives and modern sensibilities.

Indian mythology is a patchwork of countless stories, symbols, and archetypes passed down through generations. This research will analyse Devdutt Pattanaik's books like, *Jaya: An*

Illustrated Retelling of the Mahabharata, Sita: An Illustrated Retelling of the Ramayana, Myth=Mithya: Decoding Hindu Mythology, The Book of Ram and The Goddess in India: The Five Faces of the Eternal Feminine, to explore their Archetypes and archetypal patterns and interpretation themes and contributions of Indian mythology. Our goal in exploring these works is to reveal the everlasting wisdom and significance found in these ancient epics, as well as their influence on modern culture.

These myths are more than just stories; they are re-telling of cultural, spiritual, and moral wisdom that continue to shape India's collective consciousness. Devdutt Pattanaik, a famous mythologist and author, has emerged as a leading interpreter of these ancient stories, bridging the gap between mythology's profundity and the complexities of modern life. His work digs deeply into the archetypes and symbols that characterise Indian mythology, providing a fresh perspective into their relevance for modern Sensibility this writing not only intensifies our understanding of human behaviour or their consciousness and societal norms but also motivates every individual to select their paths and change a more broad and sympathetic society.

The research proposal aims to investigate the theory of archetypes and archetypal patterns that evolve in human unconsciousness, with a specific focus on their presence in literature. Archetypes are patterns that have existed in cultures throughout human history, despite the lack of direct contact or communication between the cultures. The presence of these patterns gives rise to the concept of the “Collective Unconscious,” as envisioned by psychoanalytical theorist Carl Gustav Jung.

Literature review

The books I’ve selected of Devdutt Pattanaik were published recently, *Jaya: An Illustrated Retelling of the Mahabharata, Sita: An Illustrated Retelling of the Ramayana and Myth=Mithya: Decoding Hindu Mythology, The Book of Ram and The Goddess in India: The Five Faces of the Eternal Feminine*. There are not enough critical works available on these

selected novels. The same goes for the writer also. There are a few articles, and opinions some links on online websites, that discuss the works of Devdutt Pattanaik and give a few ideas about the selected novel and its author.

P Narahari Murthy, a researcher from Osmania University, in his thesis “Comparative Archetypal Patterns in The Selected Works of Amish Tripathi and Devdutt Pattanaik” (2021), talked about how similar patterns exist on similar notes among different religions. Later he explained the archetypal pattern and the character's “collective unconscious” with the applied theory of C G Jung, where a few archetypes were explored with the character like, the sacrifice, the forest, the wise old man, and many more.

Dr C. Bhooma and Dr C.S. Senthil in their article “Archetypes Found in Amish’s Shiva Trilogies: Jungian Perspective” aimed to analyse the archetypes present in Amish Tripathi’s Shiva Trilogy from a Jungian perspective. The article focuses on the archetypes of the hero, the Wiseman, the innocent, the father, the mother, the Child, and the villain or trickster. These archetypes are mostly based on Puranas and Vedic scriptures, which are ancient Indian texts. The authors highlight that despite cultural differences, the human psyche remains similar in experiencing desires, love, hatred, and other emotions.

Apart from that, Devdutt Pattanaik mainly talks about ancient stories and situations and some of his novels' characters follow different types of archetypal patterns there are many Books articles, and interviews available on Indian ancient Indian mythology that are going be very useful to understanding and evaluating the characters and define their archetypal character and approach, and patterns which were mainly highlighted in the work of Devdutt Pattanaik.

There were a few books like “The Golden Bough: A Study in Magic and Religion” (1992), which is a useful resource book by Sir James George Frazer, in which we will understand the archetypal characters. Frazer had explored a wide range of mythology and religion. In this

influential work, Frazer delved into archetypal patterns and symbols across cultures. Frazer's work developed or introduced the concepts of archetype in the description of myth and rituals. Additionally, “The Archetypes and The Collective Unconscious” the work by C.G. Jung, developed the concept of archetype with the theory of collective unconscious posits that humans share a communal understanding of the universal truth.

Christopher Booker’s “The Seven Basic Plots: Why We Tell Stories” Observes that similar stories and situations may be found throughout the literature, where he gives the example of James Boswell's biography of Dr Samuel Johnson in the late eighteenth century.

“How small a quantity of Real Fiction there is in the world; and that the same images, with tiny variation, have served all the authors who have ever written.” (Booker 08)

All the mentioned texts and the writer will provide the proper way to study and understand the mythical archetypes and modern life differences in the work of Devdutt Pattanaik.

Objectives

The main objective of this research proposal is to explore the presence and significance of archetypes and archetypal patterns in the works of Devdutt Pattanaik.

1: By analysing various works of Devdutt Pattanaik, we aim to identify and analyse the different archetypal figures events and motifs that appear across cultures and periods.

2: The research will contribute to a deeper understanding of the human response to external circumstances and the universal themes that resonate within the works of Devdutt Pattanaik.

3: To investigate the present context's thematic relevance of mythological archetypes.

4: The research will investigate the function of mythological archetypes in the novels of Devdutt Pattanaik and the consequences of these archetypes for interpreting contemporary society in Indian literature and societal conversation.

Research Methodology

The research will involve a comprehensive survey of critical works related to the discovery of archetypal patterns in literature. By examining these works, we will gain insights into the different types of archetypes and their manifestations in various literary genres. Additionally, we will analyse specific texts to identify and interpret the archetypal figures, events, and motifs present within them. The research will follow the qualitative method and improve the text to understand thoroughly.

The MLA Handbook of Research, 9th edition, will be strictly followed.

Hypothesis

Devdutt Pattanaik's selected novels delve into the exploration of archetypes, which hold relevance and impact on our modern lives. They offer insights, into human experiences and serve as a guide, for personal growth and societal transformation. In this analysis, of all the descriptive I will propose a hypothesis regarding how Indian myths and hidden archetype patterns have been incorporated into literature as subplots. It is important to note that these adaptations do not alter the essence of the epics. To support my hypothesis I will consider the perspectives and reactions shared by both writers and critics.

Research Coverage

Several of the works of Devdutt Pattanaik have been considered in this analytical study as primary sources such as *Jaya: An Illustrated Retelling of the Mahabharata(2010), Sita: An Illustrated Retelling of the Ramayana(2013), Myth=Mithya: Decoding Hindu Mythology(2008), The Book of Ram(2009) and The Goddess in India: The Five Faces of the Eternal Feminine(2000),* and some other related sources will be included from online and offline journals, articles and research works.

Contribution to the field

The main aim of the research proposal is to contribute knowledge, about the importance and impact of mythology in shaping our perception of reality. The study intends to deepen our understanding of the role that archetypes play in mythology by analysing a selection of novels written by Devdutt Pattanaik. It also aims to explore the connection between society and mythological archetypes. Furthermore, the study will examine how Pattanaik portrays the concepts of good and evil in society both realistically and symbolically as he addresses contemporary issues. The findings from this research will make a contribution to the field of mythology and its relevance, in today's world.

Work Design

My research is divided tentatively into five chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Existence and Representation of Archetypes, in Devdutt Pattanaik Novels

Chapter 3: The influence of archetypes, on consciousness and societal norms

Chapter 4: Relevance and Impact of Mythical Archetypes in Modern Life

Chapter 5: Conclusion

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